

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 751

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS EDINBURGH 058

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, UK

SUBJECT: EC REFERENDUM: OPINION IN THE NORTH

REF: LONDON 3653

1. CONCLUSIONS REACHED IN REFTEL APPLY TO SCOTLAND WITH
FOLLOWING DIFFERENCES IN SHADE:

A) NOTHING IS UNANIMOUS HERE. INDUSTRIALISTS IN PARTICULAR
ARE MORE SANGUINE RE VOTE OUTCOME AND SEEM MORE INTENT ON
OPEN BATTLE FOR THEIR PRO-EC VIEWS. THIS WILL NOT BE DONE
ONLY BY CBI-TYPE OUTPOURINGS ON FACTS WHICH WILL BE LARGELY
DEPRECIATED BY CONSIDERATION OF SOURCE, BUT ALSO BY INFORMAL
MANAGEMENT-EMPLOYEE DISCUSSION, CONCENTRATING ON 'JOBS',
AN ULTIMATE TRUTH.

B) IN THIS CONNECTION, MAJOR PROBLEM FACED BY SCOTTISH
INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SERVANTS IS, AS USUAL, INABILITY TO WEAN
AND GLEAN SCOTTISH TRADE WITH CONTINENT FROM BRITISH STATISTICS.
SCOTTISH COUNCIL IS HAVING A GO AT IT, SINCE RESULTS PROMISE
TO BE IMPRESSIVE.

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C) AT INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION WITH THE ENCYCLOPEDIA
SIR CON O' NEIL MARCH 17, INDUSTRIALISTS ASKED WHY EMPHASIS HAD
NOT BEEN DIRECTED TO NOSE ON FACE OF ENTIRE ISSUE, I.E., THE
OMNIPOTENT AND OMNIPRESENT ' VETO' POWER TO STOP WHAT BRITS ET
AL MAY OBJECT TO. SIR CON SAID IT WAS A GOOD IDEA AND TOOK A
NOTE TO HIMSELF.

2. FURTHER COMMENT ON ' OPINION IN THE NORTH' WILL FLOW
SPASMODICALLY AS WILSON TRIES HIS HAND AT THIS WILD-CARD GAME
WHICH EVENTUALLY BROUGHT OTHER EC LEADERS TO GRIEF, E.G.,
DEGAULLE, POMPIDOU.

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